

(4) *Maintenance*—An important factor in park quality is cost and difficulty of maintenance. This is one of the reasons that the NRPA recommends that playground and school recreation facilities be jointly operated wherever possible, so that maintenance efforts can be combined. Once a park is built, a key to its continued quality is how well it is maintained.

(5) *Adequacy to meet demand*—Most local parks are user rather than resource oriented. Therefore, a key index as to their quality is their ability to meet the needs of the people they are supposed to serve. Lands acquired, but not developed with facilities are not yet very useful to the park user. And those existing parks which have facilities which do not meet the current and changing needs of the population are not fulfilling their function. Changing ethnic or age characteristics of a neighborhood or city require a periodic re-examination of the adequacy of facilities to meet emerging needs of the new population groups.

Another approach to quality was provided in the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission Study Report 5, "The Quality of Outdoor Recreation: As evidenced by User Satisfaction." This study was a report of user opinion surveys to determine the degree of satisfaction with the facilities being evaluated. In addition, forms were developed for professional evaluation of the quality of the facility. Among the factors graded by the examiner according to a scale ranging from excellent to poor were: quality of access roads, quality of the main attraction of the park, quality of the specific activities occurring in the park, site quality, design quality, and quality of maintenance or operation.

2. EXISTING CAPITAL PLANT

(a) *National Estimates for 1965*

There are no authoritative figures for the total number of local recreation facilities for the years since 1960, when the last detailed survey was undertaken by the National Recreation Association. Such surveys by the NRA have been the primary source of statistics on the subject since early in the 1900's. The Bureau of Census provides overall government expenditures on local park and recreation, but relies upon the NRA for detailed park and recreation figures. Even the NRA surveys are limited in that they do not cover every city and county. In 1961, the survey covered 2,762 cities and counties.

To supplement the 1960 survey material, a number of sources have been used, including the following: an International City Managers Association survey conducted in 1965 with the cooperation of the Urban Renewal Administration; a sample survey conducted by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of Interior; a review of the 35 State outdoor recreation plans prepared in 1964 and 1965; and statistics on the number of acres acquired from 1961 to 1965 with assistance from the open-space land program.

Acreage estimates—Based on these sources, it is estimated that there were over 1,730,000 acres in county, city and special district parks, and other recreation lands in 1965. In some State plans local acreage was not specifically identified as county or city. Of those areas designated, 781,000 acres were city or special district, and 538,000 were county. By contrast, the total acreage listed for 1960 in the 1961 NRA yearbook was 1,015,461, with 584,754 acres in municipal